

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO COMFAIRMED

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC 2485

USDOCOSOUTH

NAVSUPPACT LA MADDALENA

COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: HOUSING AND RECREATION PROJECTS AT LA MADDALENA

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NATO OFFICE DIRECTOR SALLE CALLED EMBOFFS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON 7 AUGUST TO DISCUSS MOVES WHICH MIGHT "UNBLOCK" LA MADDALENA BIA IMPASSE. HE HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT PROBLEM APPEARS TO LIE IN LOCALLY PERCEIVED INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FATE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN COMMUNAL ELECTIONS (NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER) AND STATUS OF HOUSING AND RECREATION PROJECTS. LOCAL DC OFFICIALS HAVE CONVINCED SOME IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS THAT IF THEY COULD SHOW POPULACE THAT US PRESENCE HAS BROUGHT THEM TANGIBLE REWARDS, THEY WILL THEN BE ABLE TO CARRY DAY IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS. IF NOT, THEY PREDICT PSI-PCI VICTORY. IT WAS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE MORE WE CAN OFFER LOCALS IN UPCOMING MONTHS, THE GREATER ARE THE CHANCES FOR MOVEMENT ON THE BIA.

2. EMBOFFS BRIEFED SALLES FULLY ON WHY THE TWO ISSUES HAD  
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REACHED THE PRESENT SAD STATE WHICH WAS ALSO HIGHLY UNSATIS-

FACTORY TO USN. IT WAS CLEARLY STATED THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH SEIS ANY SERIOUS PROPOSALS THEY MIGHT SUGGEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS ADVISED THAT THERE ARE LEGAL CONSTRAINTS ON HOW HIGH THE USN CAN GO FOR MONTHLY RENTALS UNDER THE LEASE CONSTRUCTION PLAN. SALLEO WILL SUGGEST TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT SEIS CONTACT ADMIRAL WILLIAMS, COMFAIRMED, IN ATTEMPT REOPEN TALKS.

3. REGARDING RECREATION FACILITY, EMBOFFS WERE INFORMED THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES STILL ADAMANT CONCERNING DESIRE TO RECEIVE SIX HECTARES ON CAPRERA BUT THAT MINISTER OF CULTURAL ASSETS IS EQUALLY FIRM IN HIS RESOLVE TO NOT RELEASE ANY MORE LAND ON CAPRERA FOR DEVELOPMENT. EMBOFFS TOLD SALLEO THAT USN WAS STANDING BY TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION THIS SUBJECT AS SOON AS ITALIAN SIDE CAME UP WITH AGREED PROPOSALS. SALLEO WAS ALSO CAUTIONED THAT GRANDIOSE PLANS INVOLVING MOVIE THEATERS AND OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOLS WERE NOT WITHIN REALM OF POSSIBILITY.

4. FYI. SALLEO WAS SURPRISED WHEN INFORMED THAT SEIS HAD BROUGHT IN MOST OF ITS LABOR FORCE FROM ITALIAN MAINLAND. HE HAD ASSUMED THAT LOCAL HIRE LABOR WOULD PERFORM BULK OF MENIAL TASKS ON BOTH PROJECTS, THUS ADDING TO THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS PERCEIVED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. IT APPEARS THAT USE OF SEABEA LABOR WILL THEREFORE LESSN POSITIVE IMPACT OF ANY RECREATION PROJECT. IT MIGHT BY USEFUL FOR USN TO CONSIDER PROJECTS WHICH PROVIDE FOR INPUT BY LOCAL LABOR.  
END FYI. VOLPE

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